

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A timing device for timing discrete periods of time, the device comprising:
at least one timer operable to measure the passing of a particular period of time without
reference to the actual time of the day or to any specific hour or minute of the day,
the length of the particular period of time being adjustable and the adjustability being
limited to multiples of a discrete number of minutes or hours;
at least one input device operable to allow for adjusting the length of the particular period
of time;
a controller operable to provide feedback signals relating to the operation and operative
mode of the timing device, and further operable to produce an alarm signal;
at least one speaker; and
a voice chip operable to combine with the speaker and the controller to convert the feedback
signals to audible human speech.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising an ear-phone jack operable to
provide a connection point for ear-phones the connection of which causes the speaker to cease
operating while the ear-phones are connected.
3. (Original) The device of claim 1, the input device being a button.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1, the discrete number of minutes being fifteen minutes.
5. (Original) The device of claim 1, the discrete number of hours being one hour.

6. (Original) A timing device for timing discrete periods of time, the device comprising:
at least one timer operable to measure the passing of a particular period of time without
reference to the actual time of the day or to any specific hour or minute of the day,
the length of the particular period of time being adjustable and the adjustability being
limited to multiples of a discrete number of minutes or hours;
at least one input device operable to allow for adjusting the length of the particular period
of time;
a controller circuit operable to provide feedback signals relating to the operation and
operative mode of the timing device, and further operable to produce an alarm signal;
at least one speaker;
at least one memory device operable to record and store a message for future playback; and
a voice chip operable to combine with the speaker, the memory device, and the controller
to convert the feedback signals and the message into audible human speech.

7. (Original) The device of claim 6, further comprising an ear-phone jack operable to
provide a connection point for ear-phones the connection of which causes the speaker to cease
operating while the ear-phones are connected.

8. (Original) The device of claim 6, the input device being at least one button.

9. (Original) The device of claim 6, the discrete number of minutes being fifteen minutes.

10. (Original) The device of claim 6, the discrete number of hours being one hour.

11. (Original) The device of claim 6, the device further comprising a microphone.

12-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A timing device for timing discrete periods of time, the device comprising:

- at least one timer operable to measure the passing of a particular period of time without reference to an actual time of a day, with the length of the particular period of time being settable and the setability being limited to multiples of two or more discrete time units, wherein the two or more discrete time units include a first discrete time unit corresponding to fifteen minutes and a second discrete time unit corresponding to one hour;
- at least one input device operable to allow for setting the length of the particular period of time, wherein measurement of the particular period of time is initiated automatically following setting of the particular period of time;
- a controller operable to provide feedback signals relating to the operation of and operative mode of the timing device, and further operable to produce an alarm signal;
- at least one memory device operable to record and store a message for future playback;
- at least one speaker operable to communicate the feedback signals, the alarm signal, and the message; and
- an ear-phone jack operable to connect one or more earphones to the timing device and operable to communicate the feedback signals, the alarm signal, and the message, wherein the speaker is disabled while the ear-phone jack is in use